

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT**

(Acre)

**CODE 612**

**DEFINITION**

Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.

**PURPOSE**

- To establish woody plants for forest products.
- To provide erosion control.
- To reduce pollution of air or water.
- To provide energy conservation.
- To landscape and beautify an area.
- To maintain or restore natural genetic diversity.
- To provide shade.
- To uptake excess water.
- To provide or enhance wildlife habitat.
- To sequester carbon.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On any area where woody plants are desired.

**CRITERIA**

**General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes**

Species will be adapted to soil-site conditions.

Species will be suitable for the planned purpose.

Planting or seeding rates will be adequate to accomplish the planned purpose.

Planting dates, and care in handling and planting of the seed, cuttings, or seedlings will ensure that planted materials have an acceptable rate of survival.

Only viable, high-quality and adapted planting stock or seed will be used.

Site preparation shall be sufficient for establishment and growth of selected species.

Adequate seed or advanced reproduction needs to be present or provided for when using natural regeneration to establish a stand.

Timing and use of planting equipment will be appropriate for the site and soil conditions.

The acceptability and timing of coppice regeneration shall be based on species, age, and diameter.

The planting will be protected from unacceptable adverse impacts from pests, wildlife, livestock damage, or fire.

Replanting will be required when survival is inadequate.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations.

**Additional Criteria for Maintaining or Restoring Natural Genetic Diversity**

Species selected will be indigenous to the site and will reflect species components of the desired stands.

**Additional Criteria for the Purposes of Landscape and Beautification, to Provide Shade and to Provide Wildlife Habitat**

Each site will be evaluated to determine if mulching, supplemental water, or other cultural treatments will be needed to assure adequate survival and growth.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

When underplanting, trees should be planted sufficiently in advance of overstory removal to ensure full establishment.

Use locally adapted seed, seedlings, or cuttings. Priority will be given to plant materials that have been selected and tested in tree/shrub improvement programs. All plant materials should comply with the minimum standards established by the American Nursery and Landscape Association.

Plans for landscape and beautification plantings should consider foliage color, season and color of flowering, and mature plant height.

Where multiple species are available to accomplish the planned objective, consideration should be given to selecting the species which best meet wildlife needs.

Consider cultural resources when planning the practice. This practice may adversely affect cultural resources and should comply with General Manual Title 420, Part 401, during planning, prior to installation, and during maintenance.

Tree/shrub arrangement and spacing should allow for access lanes.

Residual chemical carryover should be considered prior to planting.

Avoid invasive species, both introduced and native.

## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the

conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

Plans and specifications will include the following: adapted tree species for the purposes outlined, spacing, planting methods, cultural practices, maintenance requirements, and variations in methods and species between interplanting, underplanting, and planting in open areas. Separate specifications can be prepared for each of these planting methods.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

The following actions shall be carried out to ensure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation) and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance).

If needed, competing vegetation will be controlled until the woody plants are established. Noxious weeds will be controlled.

Replanting will be required when survival is inadequate.

Supplemental water will be provided as needed.

The trees and shrubs will be inspected periodically and protected from adverse impacts including insects, diseases or competing vegetation, fire, and damage from livestock or wildlife.

Periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant vigor.